

Appl. Serial No.: 09/646,924
Attorney Docket No.: MERCK-1
Reply Dated September 16, 2003

REMARKS

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 3-6, 8-9, 16, 18 and 22 have been amended to further clarify applicants' invention. Support for the amendments can be found on page 30, lines 33-36. No new matter has been added.

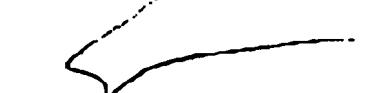
The claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly lacking written description. To expedite prosecution and not to acquiesce to the Examiner's rejection, applicants have amended the claims to define the location of the response element of the RORa receptor. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order. Such action is earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this application, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney or agent concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,


Anthony J. Zelano, Reg. No. 27,969
Attorney for Applicant(s)


Nicole E. Kinsey, Reg. No. 50,773
Agent for Applicant(s)

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO
& BRANIGAN, P.C.
Arlington Courthouse Plaza 1, Suite 1400
2200 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22201
Telephone: (703) 243-6333
Facsimile: (703) 243-6410

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